

73-1295/1

OGC 73-0473

22 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, CIA Management  
Committee

SUBJECT : White House Action to Declassify Bay of Pigs  
and Cuban Missile Crisis Documents

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for approval of the Executive Secretary of the CIA Management Committee. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 6.

2. Mr. Richard Tufaro has advised that the President has recently directed that the Bay of Pigs documents and the Cuban Missile Crisis documents be analyzed for declassification decision. Further, it appears the President proposed to make the decision himself. See Tufaro's letter of 20 March at Tab A.

3. The foregoing ties in with the New York Times appeal to CIA of 8 March from our decision of 25 September denying the Times request for declassification of the Bay of Pigs documents. The relevant correspondence between the Times and the Agency is in the folder attached at Tab B. (Also in the folder is   proposed reply for Mr. Thuermer to the Times.) I believe the White House action changes the picture considerably, including the suggestion that we would charge the Times a fee. Since the President has directed that the documents be reviewed, it will have to be done; thus it would be foolish to stand on our position that the request lacks sufficient particularity. Moreover, it is at least arguable that the request does not suffer that deficiency. A substitute reply, for Mr. Thuermer's signature, is at Tab C. STAT

4. In any event, it appears we must get on top of the problem and I suppose the first order of business is to ascertain the volume of documents involved, their location, etc. Tufaro indicated the documents should be sent to him and by telephone Dave Young has reiterated this. If, as I imagine, the documents are voluminous, it may be necessary to arrange for Tufaro or Young to review them here. Further, it will

*I believe it is inadvisable to send raw files still containing source control - outside the DCI's*

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be necessary for the Agency to review them with care, particularly in view of the possibility that disclosure might endanger lives and in view of the sources and methods problem. I suggest also that our initial actions attempt to determine the magnitude and ramifications of the problem and that we send an interim progress report to Tufaro in a week or so. Further, in view of the requirement in the Agency regulation that appeals to the CIA Committee be acted on in 30 days, we should plan an additional response to the Times in another 30 days. At some stage a discussion with Belair as to his specific requirements might narrow the scope of his request, but this will not reduce the scope of the Presidential requirement on us.

✓ 5. Note also that the President's instruction is broader than the Times request in another sense. The former also covers the documents involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

6. I believe the Inspector General's concurrence with this memorandum, below, means that your approval of the proposed reply to the Times constitutes the action required of the CIA Committee, since that Committee is composed of the Executive Secretary of the CIA Management Committee, the Inspector General and the General Counsel. Your approval is recommended.

STAT  
[Redacted Signature]  
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

Attachments

CONCURRENCE:

STAT [Redacted Signature]  
Inspector General

March 22, 1973  
Date

APPROVAL:

STAT [Redacted Signature]  
Executive Secretary  
CIA Management Committee

27 Mar 73  
Date

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WFC

Original - Addressee - OGC Subj: Release of Information  
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1 - RHL signer

1 - Chrono